# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# HOME AFFAIRS
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5716
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2005
HUMAN RIGHTS OF PRISONERS
Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

**Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the protection of the Human Rights of prisoners is the prime concern of the National Human Rights Commission;

(b) if so, whether NHRC regularly undertake visits to various jails;

(c) if so, the details of such visits made by National Human Rights Commission during the last three years and thereafter till date;

(d) the observations made by it thereafter; and

(e) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government and the State Governments thereon?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): One of the functions of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), as provided for in terms of Section 12(c) of the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, is to visit, under intimation to the State Government, any jail or any other Institution under the control of the State Government, where persons are detained or lodged for purposes of treatment, reformation or protection in order to study the living conditions of the inmates and make recommendations thereon.

(b) & (c): A team of NHRC visits various jails from time to time. The team has visited 20 jails during the last three years (April, 2002 till date).

(d): NHRC makes observations and comments on various issues concerning conditions in jails such as condition of jail buildings, inadequacy of sanitation, over crowding in jails, adequacy of staffing, dietary provisions, medical facilities, cases of custodial deaths - their reporting to NHRC, rights of convicts and their grievances, wages paid to prisoners, rights of under trial prisoners and their grievances, recreation facilities, functioning of the Board of visitors, functioning of Lok Adalats, facilities available for interviews by family members and housing facilities for the staff etc.

(e): The Commission sends its observations to the State Governments who send Action Taken Reports to the Commission.